
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING — NOVEMBER 2023

Meeting. The Iowa State Board of Education met on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, in the State Board Room at the Grimes State Office Building in Des Moines. Materials related to the meeting are available on the Department of Education's [website](#).

Director's Report. Director of Education McKenzie Snow updated the Board on her work and several priorities of the Department. Director Snow also shared that Iowa was recently [ranked in the top 10](#) nationally for computer science education and that the Department has received a record number of nominations for the [U.S. Presidential Scholars Program](#).

Consent Agenda. The Board approved school standard exemption renewal [requests](#) from 81 religious groups across the State.

Administrative Rule Review. On January 11, 2023, the Governor signed [Executive Order No. 10](#) ordering State Executive Branch agencies to perform a comprehensive review of the existing Iowa Administrative Code (IAC). Agencies must review their respective portions of the IAC to rescind or rescind and readopt relevant IAC chapters. The Board approved Notice of Intended Action regarding the rescission or the rescission and readoption of 13 individual chapters as a result of the review. The Department reported the changes to these chapters were largely nonsubstantive, brought the rules in line with statutory language, or removed duplicative language or processes. Details about these proposed changes can be found on the [Board's meeting agenda](#).

New Administrative Rules. The Board considered and approved Notice of Intended Action for [281—Chapter 12](#) of the Department's administrative rules. These rules carry out the statutory changes enacted by [SF 496](#) (Education, Parental Rights, and School Transparency Act), which was passed during the 2023 Legislative Session. As directed by the Act, the proposed rule change prohibits instruction by school districts, charter schools, and innovation zone schools regarding gender identity and sexual orientation. The new rules additionally would direct these institutions to periodically review materials currently in their libraries and any material being added to the library for obscene or sexually explicit material, and require that any book deemed to contain such material be removed.

Charter Schools. The Board reviewed and approved the submission of two reports on charter schools to the Legislature. The first report concerned [Charter and Innovation Zone Schools](#), as required by Iowa Code section [256F.10](#), and the second concerned [Charter School Program Findings and Recommendations](#), as required by Iowa Code section [256E.12](#). Staff noted that there are eight applications for new charter schools that are expected to come before the Board for approval at its January 11, 2024, meeting.

Program Approvals. The Board reviewed and approved the [State's School Administration Manager \(SAM\) Authorization Preparation Program](#), the [Heartland Area Education Agency \(AEA\) Paraeducator Preparation Program](#), and the [Grant Wood AEA Paraeducator Preparation Program](#).

2023 Fall Enrollment – Iowa Community Colleges. The Board received a [report](#) on the 2023 fall enrollment data from the Iowa community colleges. Enrollment across the colleges sits at 82,362, representing a 3.8% increase from the previous fall semester.

Teacher Pipeline. The Board received a [report](#) from staff on the recruitment and retention of teachers and deliberated on the subject.

School Budget Review Committee Update. The Board received a [report](#) on school budgets from Kassandra Kline, the Bureau Chief of School Business Operations at the Department.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Iowa State Board of Education is scheduled for Monday, December 4, 2023.

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